

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated August 4, 2004. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. In this Office action, claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 3-6, 11-14 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

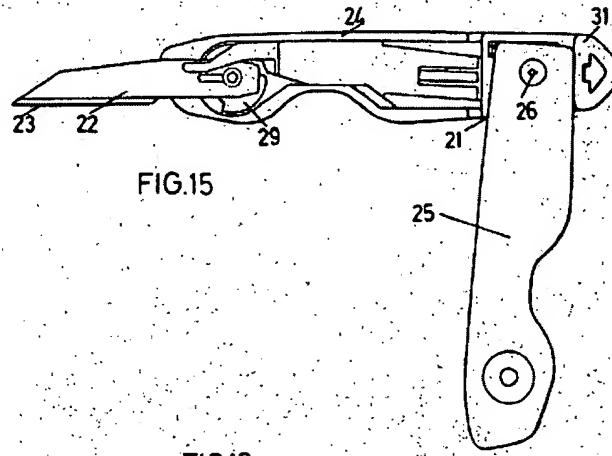
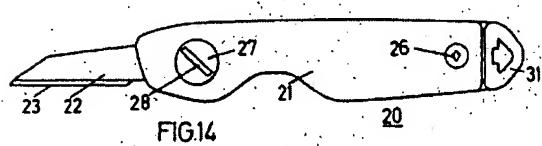
Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gilbert, U.S. Patent No. 3,829,967 (hereinafter "Gilbert"), and as being anticipated by Phelps, U.S. Patent No. 4,408,394 (hereinafter "Phelps"). Although applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 16 to clarify the claimed invention. The amended independent claims distinguish from the cited prior art because these claims recite a manually-releasable fastening device having a retaining element and a manipulable element. Amended claim 1 is reproduced below for your convenience:

1. A knife comprising:
 - a handle including a first side and a second side, the first side removably coupled to the second side;
 - a blade removably secured to the handle and rotatable about a pivot point between an open position and a closed position; and
 - a manually-releasable fastening device disposed on the handle having a retaining element adapted to support the blade during rotation about the pivot point, and a manipulable element adjustably attached to the retaining element and adapted to secure the first side to the second side and to secure the blade to the handle.

Amended claims 8 and 16 also recite a fastening device having a retaining element and a manipulable element.

Gilbert discloses a pocket knife with a replaceable blade mounted on a rotatable disk.

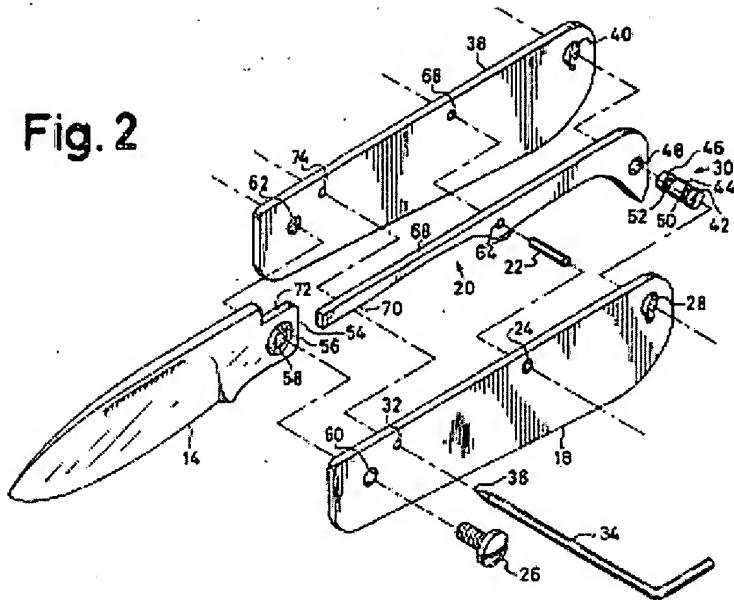
The pocket knife of Gilbert includes connectors as shown in Figs. 14 and 15.



As described in column 3, lines 59 through 68, handle parts 24 and 25 are secured together by screws 26 and 27. Thus, the Gilbert knife does not include a fastening device having a retaining element and a manipulable element.

Phelps discloses a backspring-lined jack knife with a removable blade. The knife of Phelps includes threaded machine screw 26, which secures blade 14 to handle side plates 18 and 38, as shown in Fig. 2. Thus, the Phelps knife does not include a fastening device having a retaining element and a manipulable element.

Fig. 2



For at least the above reason, claims 1, 8 and 16 are not anticipated by Gilbert or Phelps. Therefore, applicants request that the rejections of claims 1, 8, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 17 be withdrawn upon acceptance of claims 1, 8, and 16. Furthermore, as claims 3-6, 11-14 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims 1, 8, or 16, applicants respectfully request that claims 3-6, 11-14 and 18 be allowed upon allowance of claims 1, 8, and 16.

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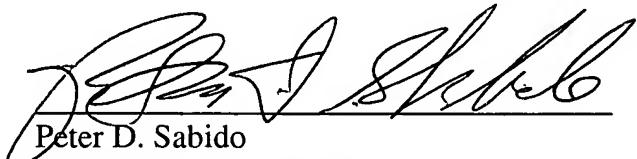
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Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

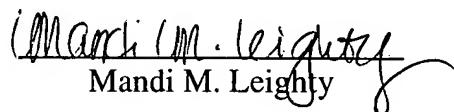
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 6, 2004.



Mandi M. Leighty